

200310701-1

10/648,122

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Official Action mailed March 13, 2006. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

By the present amendment, claims 27 and 56 are amended. Claims 1, 3-26, 54, 55, 57, 59-61 and 65 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Original claims 37-49 were cancelled previously. Thus, claims 2, 27-36, 50-53, 56, 58 and 62-64 are currently pending for further action.

Allowable Subject Matter:

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 2, 30-36, 50-53, 58 and 62-64 and further indicated the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 27-29 and 56. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims and this identification of further allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, claims 27 and 56 have been amended herein and rewritten as independent claims containing all the language of their former base claims. Claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 27.

Consequently, following entry of this amendment, the only claims remaining in the application are claims indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, entry of this amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Prior Art:

The recent Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-26, 54, 55, 57, 59-61 and 65 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,376,148 to Liu (Liu). This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation herein of the rejected claims. However, Applicant traverses this rejection and has cancelled the rejected claims without prejudice or disclaimer solely to expedite the issuance of the allowed claims. Applicant reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications to the cancelled claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application.

Conclusion:

Entry and consideration of this amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. The present amendment makes only those changes necessary to place the application in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner. The amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search or consideration. And, based on the indications of the Examiner, the present amendment clearly places the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry of the present amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 116 and is hereby requested.


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For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: May 11, 2006

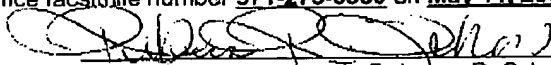
  
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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 571-273-8300 on May 11, 2006. Number of Pages: 12

  
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